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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9341

INFO RUEHDL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 1053

RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0135

RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1008

RUEHLP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 0084

RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 0017

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 3674

RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J-3/J-5// PRIORITY

RUEUITH/ODC ANKARA TU PRIORITY

RUEAAIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000522

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/SE; SCA/PB MARY BETH GOODMAN AND TARA FOLEY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/07/2019

TAGS: PREL EAID ECON EFIN IBRD IMF PK TU

SUBJECT: TURKEY TO PLEDGE \$100 MILLION AT PAKISTAN DONORS

CONFERENCE; FM BABACAN TO ATTEND

REF: A. SECSTATE 32712

1B. ANKARA 405

Classified By: POL Counselor Daniel O'Grady, reasons 1.4(b,d).

11. (C) We delivered ref A follow-up points April 8 on the Pakistan Donors Conference to MFA South Asia Department Head Babur Girgin. Girgin confirmed that Foreign Minister Ali Babacan does plan to attend the conference. Accompanying him will be MFA Deputy U/S for South Asia and Middle East Feridun Sinirlioglu, South Asia and Iran DDG Babur Hizlan and DDG for Bilateral Economic Affairs Hilmı Dedeoglu. Girgin said Turkey intends to pledge \$100 million to Pakistan: \$10 million as a direct cash grant, with the rest going to projects focused particularly on education and health. Girgin explained that the specific nature of the projects remains to be determined. Turkey considers education to be the number one priority in Pakistan -- a core solution to poverty and extremism. Turkey also considers health and infrastructure development as high priorities. Turkey may also seek to leverage the trilateral "Ankara Process" in its contribution through, for example, focusing some its pledge on development in the border region with Afghanistan.

12. (C) Turkey's political ties with Pakistan are deep, but Pakistan is not a traditional recipient of Turkish development assistance, which is concentrated on Afghanistan and Central Asia. Turkey, however, responded immediately and generously to the devastating earthquake that struck Pakistan in 2005, providing \$126 million worth of emergency relief -- \$6 million in direct cash assistance. Girgin said Turkish aid to Pakistan has been and will be administered with a sensitivity to Pakistan's desire to distinguish itself from other nearby aid recipients, namely Afghanistan.

13. (C) The Japanese delivered their points separately to MFA on April 7. Japanese Embassy DCM Jun Yoshida and Political Counselor Keisuke Yamanaka told us later that day that Tokyo is pleased that FM Babacan will attend the conference and satisfied with the Turkish pledge -- a considerable figure, he agreed, given Turkey's relative level of economic development and the worsening domestic economy. Post has not yet been able to coordinate with the Pakistani Embassy, as key officers were in Istanbul for the Alliance of Civilizations meeting. The Japanese Embassy agreed that a joint demarche with Pakistan to the Turks would probably be

unwelcome by both the Turks and the Pakistanis, given their special relationship. We will seek an opportunity, however, to consult with the Pakistani Embassy on the Turkish pledge and its possible components.

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Jeffrey